

Voice of the International Students

VIS

医学研究院
国際連携部門だより

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What is VIS ?

The International Relations Division of the Faculty of Medicine issues VIS to send out the live messages from International Students of Graduate School of Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Science and School of Medicine, and to promote the exchange of intercultural information. We hope VIS helps to cultivate intercultural communications and boost international exchanges.

VISの発行の目的は、医学院・医理工学院・医学部医学科の留学生の生の声を発信することと、異文化間の情報交換を促進することです。VISが異文化間のコミュニケーションを養い、国際交流を実行していくうえで役立つことを望みます。

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From Mahidol University, Thailand

During the past week, I have learned a lot about Nephrology through ward rounds and case discussions. I also had the chance to visit the research room and learn about the concept of conducting research in Japan, which is quite different from my experience in Thailand.

I gained knowledge about kidney diseases such as ADPKD and vasculitis, and learned about treatments including peritoneal dialysis and hemodialysis. I also encountered patients with ADPKD and its complications, which I had never seen before in Thailand. Moreover, I learned that Japan has many novel drugs, such as Nafamostat. I am very interested in understanding their mechanisms and clinical trials.

Everyone here has been very kind — professors and residents always explain things to me in English, ensuring I understand. I truly appreciate their effort and the friendly atmosphere here. Thank you very much.



Nutwara Kijthammarat

Department of Rheumatology, Endocrinology, and Nephrology
Period: October 27 - November 14, 2025

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

During my rotation in Hokkaido, the first thing I noticed was how convenient daily life was. Eating out was extremely easy, and transportation made it simple to get anywhere I needed to go. This created a very comfortable environment outside of the hospital.

In the hospital, this was my first time rotating in dermatology, so I was genuinely excited and motivated to learn. I was able to observe and study many common dermatologic conditions, including eczema, urticaria, pemphigus, and various types of skin cancer. Through these cases, I gained a clearer understanding of their clinical course, diagnostic approach, and treatment strategies. Each day allowed me to build a more solid foundation in dermatology, and I felt my clinical reasoning gradually improving.

What impressed me the most was how kind and supportive the attending physicians, residents, and senior students were. They were always willing to explain, discuss, and teach, which made the entire learning experience much more enjoyable and meaningful. I truly felt welcomed as part of the team.

The only minor downside was the weather—Hokkaido became colder and more unpredictable as winter approached. However, overall, this rotation was an incredibly valuable and memorable experience.



Li, Zhi-Lin

Department of Dermatology
Period: October 14 - November 7, 2025



Su, Yin-Chu

Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Period: November 4 – November 28, 2025

Drawn to the enchanting snow world ever since I was a kid, I chose Hokkaido University Hospital for my elective programme in my final year of studies without hesitation. After a month of enlightening and enriching experiences, I can confidently say my decision was absolutely right!

During my stay in the ENT department, I found all the doctors to be incredibly kind and welcoming. Upon beginning my elective, I could immediately sense the passion and friendliness of the people around me. From renowned professors to junior residents, everyone was eager to teach me and explain what was happening around me. Whether it involved surgical techniques, patient evaluations, or even navigating the slippery, frozen roads of Hokkaido, there was always someone available to help and answer my questions.

In addition to the heartwarming staff members, the surgeons' cutting-edge techniques were also impressive. I had the privilege of observing various delicate ENT surgeries during my stay, including parotidectomy, nasal neuroblastoma removal, and ossiculoplasty. Witnessing these delicate procedures in person was jaw-dropping, as if a magnificent show were unfolding right before me. The doctor's detailed explanations and passion for teaching immensely benefited my learning experience, solidifying my determination to pursue a career in the field of ENT.

Undergoing an elective in the Otolaryngology Department of the Hokkaido University Hospital is a splendid experience. The beautiful campus, friendly doctors, and the comfortable vibe of Sapporo all combine to make an unforgettable experience. Sounds fantastic, doesn't it? Come and experience it yourself!

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong



Wong, Tsz Ki

Department of Therapeutic Radiology
Period: November 17 – December 12, 2025

Time flies and there goes my 4 weeks of attachment at the Department of Therapeutic Radiology, Hokkaido University Hospital! During this period, I am honoured to have the opportunity to learn about different treatment machines, observe daily operation of the department, and partake in the treatment planning processes. Under supervision, I have created contouring and radiation plans for patients with breast cancer, laryngeal cancer, and bone metastasis for the first time. I also got to understand more about the medical system and disease epidemiology in Japan.

I would love to express my heartfelt gratitude to all professors and doctors of the Department of Therapeutic Radiology. Despite the language barrier, their patience and welcoming attitude have made my experience rewarding and memorable. Their professional attitude and clinical excellence definitely inspired me to become a better doctor in the future.

Hokkaido definitely feels like home. How nice would it be if I can stay longer! I will surely miss the autumn leaves, winter snows, and every moment I have spent in this wonderful place. Thank you, Hokkaido!

My medical elective experience at Hokkaido University Hospital was truly unforgettable. Arriving in Hokkaido for the first time, I was completely captivated by the stunning scenery. The snow-capped mountains and beautiful landscapes were a sight to behold, providing a perfect backdrop to my medical journey. It was a privilege to witness such beauty, especially as it was my first encounter with winter wonderlands.

During my time at the hospital, I had the incredible opportunity to work with the orthopedic department. The doctors were exceptionally friendly and dedicated, always willing to explain medical conditions in English. I even got to assist in a total knee replacement surgery, an experience that deepened my understanding of the field and reignited my passion for medicine. Their guidance and encouragement made this experience all the more enriching.

Beyond my clinical duties, I embraced the spirit of community by participating in various badminton events and joining in the Halloween and winter parties organized by the dormitory. These gatherings were not only enjoyable but also allowed me to connect with fellow students and create lasting friendships.

Overall, I am incredibly grateful for the experiences and knowledge I gained during my medical elective at Hokkaido University Hospital. It was a perfect blend of professional growth and cultural enrichment, and I look forward to sharing these memories for years to come.



Ng, Wing Tung

Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Period: November 17 – December 12, 2025

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From China Medical University, Taiwan

During my rotation in the emergency department, the sound of an emergency call was something I both anticipated and feared, as it meant another critically ill patient was arriving. I vividly remember the physicians and nurses waiting at the entrance, fully prepared for a life-or-death resuscitation. Once the patient was brought in, everyone worked efficiently assessing vital signs, securing IV access, and placing arterial or central lines to stabilize blood pressure before sending the patient for imaging.

Although many patients arrived in cardiac arrest, some survived and were admitted to the emergency ICU for further care. Through these cases, I learned essential principles of critical care, from managing septic shock, DIC, and hypothermia to treating high-fall trauma and acute myocardial infarction. Daily morning conferences allowed me to closely follow each patient's clinical course. Despite the language barrier, the staff made every effort to communicate with me in English and help me understand the workflow of Hokkaido University Hospital's emergency department.

As a Taiwanese exchange student, this experience has been profoundly meaningful. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn in such a professional and compassionate environment. I sincerely wish everyone in the Emergency Medicine Department continued health and success, and I hope our paths will cross again in the future.



Yan, Da-Jyun

Department of Acute and Critical Care Medicine (Emergency Med.)
Period: October 14 – November 7, 2025

My clinical elective at Hokkaido University Hospital was an exceptionally meaningful experience that broadened both my medical knowledge and my understanding of patient-centered care. During my rotation in the Department of Breast Surgery, I witnessed a highly organized clinical workflow in which each patient was scheduled with precision, allowing ample time for thoughtful communication and shared decision-making. Observing this system deepened my appreciation for a healthcare culture that values respect, clarity, and patient dignity.



Yen, Ju-Ching

Department of Breast Surgery
Period: October 14 – November 7, 2025

In the operating room, I had the opportunity to scrub in for multiple surgeries and practice suturing under the guidance of skilled and patient instructors. These hands-on experiences enhanced my understanding of breast cancer management—from staging and treatment planning to surgical techniques—and strengthened my aspiration to pursue a surgical career.

What truly distinguished this rotation, however, was the warmth and generosity of the team. I am especially grateful to every doctor and every member of the Breast Surgery Department, whose kindness, encouragement, and willingness to teach made each day both motivating and memorable. Their professionalism and compassion left a lasting impression on me.

This elective has shaped me into a more mature and thoughtful medical student, and I remain deeply appreciative of the opportunity to learn at such an outstanding institution.



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